

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), also known as verbal dyspraxia or developmental apraxia, is a neurological speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to speak, whereby the child's brain does not allow messages to reach their mouth, and it can be a significant struggle for them to learn to say sounds and words; and

WHEREAS, among the most severe speech deficits in children, early diagnosis and intervention of Childhood Apraxia of Speech is crucial to reduce the risks of negatively impacting reading, writing, spelling, and other important skills that contribute to their quality of life, preparation for adulthood, socialization, and happiness; and

WHEREAS, affecting more boys than girls, children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech will learn to communicate with their very own voices only if they receive early intervention and appropriate, intensive, and frequent speech therapy; and

WHEREAS, the *Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America* (CASANA), whose motto is "Every Child Deserves a Voice," established May 14th as Apraxia Awareness Day to emphasize to industry professionals the need to correctly identify and treat children with Apraxia; and

WHEREAS, Apraxia Kids is a leading nonprofit organization with a mission of supporting parents and professionals in understanding and raising awareness, and envisions a world where every child with CAS reaches their highest level of communication potential through accurate diagnosis and appropriate timely treatment; and

WHEREAS, locally, in recognition of Apraxia Awareness Day, the Florida Apraxia Kids organization is hosting several events throughout the Tampa Bay community during the month of May including an *Apraxia Awareness Family Celebration* at Great Explorations in St. Petersburg, Florida on Saturday, May 25, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 14, 2019 as

"APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in supporting the efforts of nonprofit organizations, physicians, speech therapists, and those affected with Childhood Apraxia of Speech in advocacy, raising awareness and research about this serious speech disorder.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13th day of May, 2019.



Jane Castor

Mayor